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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/455,331

Applicant(s)

KIM, YONG-GEUN

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5 and 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 6, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (US Patent No. 6,160,629).

As to claim 6, Tang teaches a method for printing a confidential document in a printer comprising:

reading print type information received through a communication interface (42 in fig. 3) together with a print data file (col. 4, lines 2-4) and determining whether a user set the print type information to be either general printing or confidential printing with respect to the document file to be printed (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55);

requesting a user to input a secret code only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing (col. 7, lines 29-40 describes that the document for private printing is set at window “fig. 4E” of the computer “col. 31-38”, and then the printer control panel 38 at the printer “fig. 3” requests the user to enter privacy code when the user want to print the privacy document “col. 7, lines 29-30”); and

printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper when the secret code input by the user is the same as the secret code set in the print type information (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55).

As to claim 8, Tang teaches a method for printing a confidential document in an image printing system including a computer and a printer connected to the computer by a communication interface comprising:

requesting a user to select either general printing or confidential printing of setting a secret code with respect to a document file to be printed on a print type selection menu screen using an input device when there is a print request command through the input device of the computer (fig. 4E and col. 7, lines 36-38 describes that the document for private printing is set at window “fig. 4E” “col. 31-38” and then the printer control panel 38 at the printer “fig. 3” requests the user to enter privacy code when the user want to print the privacy document “col. 7, lines 29-30”);

transferring information, on the selected print type and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for the printer, to the printer; and reading information on the print type transferred to the printer together with the print data file (col. 7, lines 46-50) and, only after the confidential printing is selected, requesting the user to input a secret code with respect to a confidential print data file selected to be printed and received (a window “fig. 4E” is provided by the printer driver “18 in fig. 2” of the computer “12 in fig. 2”, the user can set the print type information “col. 5, lines 25-27” to be confidential printing “i.e., private job is set on to a sensitive document with an user name and a pin number objects on the window fig. 4E; and col. 7, lines 31-38”, and then the confidential document is received at

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printer and temporarily stored “col. 7, lines 51-53”. If the user wants to print the confidential document, the user **must** enter privacy code at printer control panel 38 of the printer 10 “fig. 3” “col. 7, lines 29-30, 38-40 and 34-37”. Thus, the printer control panel 38 of the printer for “**requesting** a user to input a secret code only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing”);

determining whether the input secret code is the same as the secret code previously set in the print set information; and performing the printing of the received print data file when it is determined that the input secret code is the same as the secret code (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Applicant’s arguments, see pages 8-9, filed 6/30/04, with respect to the rejections of claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 9 under 103 rejection have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. Thus, claims 1, 3-5 and 9 are allowed in which claims 1, 4 and 9 are independent claims.

The reasons for allowance based on pages 8 and 9 on the Applicant’s Arguments.

4. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 6, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The reason for allowing this claim is that the limitation from this claim is similar with one of the limitations that are contained on the allowed claims 1, 4 and 9.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 6, filed 6/30/04, with respect to the rejection of claims 6 and 8 under 102(e) rejection have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued to claim 6 and 8 on page 6, lines 16-22, of the Remarks that: "Tang, does not or suggest at a **printer** at least " requesting a user to input a secret code only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing," as recited in amended claim 6. That is, Tang only shows a window in which job option is selectable in the same display that a Personal Identification Number (PIN) is required. See, for example, Fig. 4(e). However, Tang does not show that a request is made of a user to input a secret code only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing" The argument has been fully considered but is not deemed to be persuasive because of the following:

Tang clearly teaches at a window (fig. 4E) is provided by the printer driver (18 in fig. 2) of the computer (12 in fig. 2), the user can set the print type information (col. 5, lines 25-27) to be confidential printing (i.e., private job is set on to a sensitive document with an user name and a pin number objects on the window fig. 4E; and col. 7, lines 31-38), and then the confidential document is received at printer and temporarily stored (col. 7, lines 51-53). If the user wants to print the confidential document, the user **must** enter privacy code at printer control panel 38 of the printer 10 (fig. 3) (col. 7, lines 29-30, 38-40 and 34-37). Thus, Tang clearly teaches the printer control panel 38 of the printer for "**requesting** a user to input a secret code only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing". It is noted that if the control panel does not request a user to input a secret code how can the printer know to print the confidential print

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job which is temporarily stored in the memory of the printer? And the window at the computer on fig. 4E would not be the same as the window at the printer control panel (38 in fig. 3).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the cited prior art fully discloses the claimed invention and the rejection stand.

Conclusion

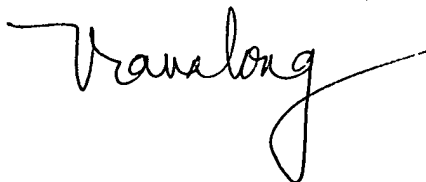
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Jan. 07 , 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tran Douglas", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.